

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are cancelled by the present Amendment. Claim 20 is elected in response to the Restriction Requirement. Upon allowance of claim 20, applicants will request that claim 21, which is dependent on claim 20, be rejoined as both claims 20 and 21 recite a single special technical feature -- viscosupplementation by contacting body tissue with a certain viscoelastic gel slurry comprising a compound comprising hyaluronan cross-linked with cross-linking agent containing two or more aziridines.

New claims 22-29 are added . The new claims are supported in the specification at page 5, line 1-30; page 9, lines 5-17; page 6, lines 21-24; and page 11, lines 12-25. These new claims are dependent from claim 20 and have the same limitation to the use of viscoelastic gel slurry for viscosupplementation as recited in claim 20. Accordingly, claims 22-29 recite a single special feature common to claim 20 and are within the elected Group V and should be examined along with elected claim 20.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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